# NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE NEWS

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## NLM Regents Meet

San Francisco's newly opened Bank of America Center was the site for the thirty-fifth meeting of NLM's Board of Regents, the Library's chief advisory body. Mr. Alfred R. Zipf, Executive Vice-President of the Bank of America and Chairman of the Board of Regents, hosted the two-day meeting, March 26-27.

Highlighting the meeting was an address by Dr. John Sherman, Deputy Director of the National Institutes of Health, who presented an "overview of health activities on the Washington scene." Other items on the agenda included a report by NLM Director, Martin M. Cummings, M.D., and reports to the Board by other members of the Library staff on current NLM plans and activities.


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MEDICAL LIBRARY


## MLA to Feature Three-Part NLM Exhibit

NLM will demonstrate some of the new directions and possibilities for library services in the 1970's through a composite display at the Convention of the Medical Library Association in New Orleans, May 18-21.

The display will center on the "Basic Hospital Library" (*News*, December 1969), a collection of books and journals of prime importance for practicing physicians working in small community hospitals. On either side of this exhibit will be examples of computerized, remote-access, on-line bibliographic search systems. The Biomedical Communication Network of the State University of New York at Syracuse will demonstrate searching from their terminal of the entire MEDLARS file from 1967 to the present. This system shows the type of service larger libraries will provide in the near future. Another display will demonstrate the "AIM-TWX" experimental service sponsored by the Lister Hill Center and Library Operations at NLM. This demonstration will show how a TWX terminal or teletype on the telephone network can provide easy access to a partial MEDLARS file: five years of bibliographic citations to articles in journals covered by *Abridged Index Medicus*. This type of service would be useful for hospitals and small libraries.

## The Principles of MEDLARS

The Library has published a 77-page, illustrated booklet -- designed primarily for the user of MEDLARS search services and published bibliographies -- describing the indexing procedures, vocabulary, search strategies, products, and services of MEDLARS. The booklet also discusses the capabilities and limitations of the system. It was prepared for the Library by F. W. Lancaster, formerly Special Assistant to the Associate Director for Library Operations, NLM, and now on the staff of the Graduate School of Library Science, University of Illinois.

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE**

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NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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## Communications by Satellite

In April 1970 the Lister Hill Center for Biomedical Communications (a component of the National Library of Medicine) began a series of communication tests utilizing the NASA ATS satellites. Communications via these satellites were established between the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, the University of Wisconsin, Stanford University and the Lister Hill Center in Bethesda, Maryland. This was the first group voice communication via satellite between any four medical locations. The experiment demonstrated the feasibility of group consultative sessions employing satellites between such distant locations as a hospital in Fairbanks, Alaska and the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

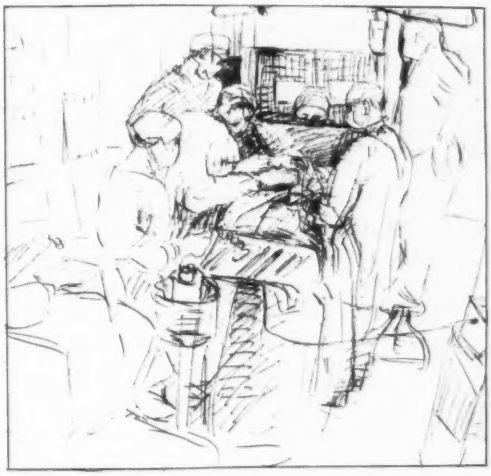
The equipment used by the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications was specifically chosen for its low cost and ease of installation. The equipment costs less than the ham radios used by health aides in many villages of Alaska. The transceiver loaned to the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications by NASA would cost about $700 and the antenna another $78. According to Dr. Ruth Davis, Director, Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, the equipment is so economical that it could easily be purchased by many small clinics and even some individual physicians. This test was the first in a series of tests involving the four medical center locations. The University of Washington at Seattle will participate in future tests which will involve EKG transmission using existing EKG devices, information transfer between medical institutions, slow scan television transmission and the first satellite transmission of color photo facsimile. The color photo facsimile transmission will be conducted between Stanford University and the Lister Hill Center. Phototype equipment developed by Litton Industries will be loaned for the experiment. The General Electric Company will loan several of its transmitter and receiver devices to the Lister Hill Center and other participants for experimental use in these tests. The objectives of the experimental series of tests are to establish the technical feasibility of satellite communications, and the required fidelity for non-voice signal transmission. Most importantly the tests will determine the potential of satellite communications to assist practicing physicians and paramedical personnel in remote locations, and in providing selected educational and information services inexpensively and more reliably for the medical community as a whole.

(*Principles*, from Page 1)

*The Principles of MEDLARS* is sold by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. The order number is HE 20.3608:M46/2; remittance of $0.75 ($0.94 foreign) should be included with the order. (Please do not send orders to the National Library of Medicine.)

## New NLM Lobby Exhibit

The lobby of the National Library of Medicine will be transformed from a museum (of medical quackery devices) into an art gallery with the opening on May 4th of a new exhibit of works by May H. Lesser. The exhibit, titled "The Art of Learning Medicine," will contain a variety of drawings and etchings depicting medical school scenes. All are works completed by Mrs. Lesser during a recent period as artist-in-residence at the UCLA Medical School.



*"In the O.R.," - 18"x24" ink drawing.*

Mrs. Lesser -- wife, daughter, and sister of physicians -- is a graduate of the H. Sophie Newcomb College, Tulane University, with honors in drawing. She received her master's degree in painting from the University of Alabama and did graduate work at UCLA, where she also taught design. Her works have been exhibited at the Seattle Institute of Art, the Smithsonian Institution, the University of Miami, and a number of United States embassies abroad. Six of her etchings are in the permanent collection of the National Library of Medicine; others are owned by the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Oklahoma Art Center, and the Grunwald Graphic Art Foundation, UCLA.

The exhibit will remain at the Library until August 28, 1970.

## Current Catalog Proof Sheets

Beginning July 1, 1970, the Medical Library Association (MLA) will publish NLM Current Catalog proof sheets twice weekly. These proof sheets will contain complete cataloging data for current English-language materials received by NLM. Libraries which have been receiving the semiweekly sheets on an experimental basis for more than a year have reported that they have been of considerable value in acquiring and cataloging recent biomedical titles.

The cataloging and editorial work will be done at NLM. The items included in the semiweekly proof sheets will receive priority treatment by NLM, so that they will be cataloged and in a format ready for printing within a few days after their arrival at the Library. MLA will be responsible for printing and distribution.

The subscription price for 104 issues will be established at approximately $25.00 per year -- less than 25 cents an issue. More definite information on subscription costs will be available within the next month from the Medical Library Association, 919 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1601, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

## Vision Information Center Discontinues Services

The National Eye Institute has informed NLM that it is planning to phase out the bibliographic activities of the Vision Information Center (VIC). This Center was established in June 1966 at Harvard's Countway Library and has been providing bibliographic services to investigators in the field of vision research. These included current awareness services, demand bibliographies, and other related services.

The Center developed a thesaurus to be used by research investigators in the field, and established a vision information data base of approximately 7500 citations. This data base has recently been available to a limited number of users on an on-line basis at the Harvard Computer Center. On or about July 1, support of these activities by the Eye Institute will be phased out. NLM will be prepared to provide those types of bibliographic service to the users of the VIC that are available through the MEDLARS services. Most of the vision information data base exists as part of the MEDLARS data base. MEDLARS can provide current awareness services in the form of bibliographies and demand searches which will be available through the MEDLARS network.

The distribution of bibliographies formerly available through VIC will be incorporated into the Clearinghouse of Medical Bibliographies recently established in the Reference Section of the NLM.

The National Eye Institute is investigating the possibility of restructuring and adapting the VIC thesaurus so that it may more readily be integrated with the augmented MeSH Vocabulary of MEDLARS II. The National Eye Institute is also exploring the possibility of providing a liaison activity for VIC users at the National Eye Institute.

## New NLM Literature Searches

Single copies of the following new bibliographies are available on request to the Literature Search Program, Reference Section, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

| L.S. No. | Title |
|---|---|
| 70-14 | DOPA in neuromuscular disorders. January 1967 - March 1970. (98 citations) |
| 70-15 | Psychopharmacology in geriatrics. January 1967 - March 1970. (189 citations) |
| 70-16 | Control of obesity by diet. January 1967 - March 1970. (98 citations) |
| 70-17 | Conditioned learning in the brain damaged child. January 1967 - March 1970. (75 citations) |
| 70-18 | Dietary fats and cardiovascular disease. January 1967 - March 1970. (174 citations) |
| 70-19 | Medicine in Vietnam. January 1964 - December 1969. (451 citations) |
| 70-20 | Medical aspects of civil disorders. January 1967 - March 1970. (36 citations) |